



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND UNITED STATES ARMY HAWAII**  
**BUILDING 580 KOLEKOLE AVENUE**  
**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-6000**

APVG-CG

**12 DEC 2018**

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**SUBJECT: 25th Infantry Division and United States Army Hawaii Policy Letter #19 – Live Fire Exercise (LFX) Policy**

**1. References.**

- a. AR 385-63, Range Safety, 16 April 2014.
- b. 25th Infantry Division and USAHAW Regulation 350-19, Ranges and Training Areas, 01 August 2016.
- c. FM 3-34.214, Explosives and Demolitions, 01 July 2007.

**2. Applicability.** This policy applies to all Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division.

**3. Policy.**

a. The purpose of this is to establish standards regarding the planning, preparation, and safe execution of LFXs. Realistic LFXs are essential to combat readiness; training where our Soldiers safely and aggressively conduct fire and maneuver builds confidence and increases lethality across our formation. LFXs will be the culmination of deliberate, progressive training programs utilizing the 8 Step Training Model.

**b. Definitions.**

(1) Static ranges are defined as training events that have a fixed firing line and do not involve maneuver, such as qualification/marksmanship ranges, demolition areas, and indirect firing points.

(2) LFXs are defined as training events involving fire and maneuver, to include both mounted and dismounted maneuver exercises at fixed range facilities (such as the BAX), unit-developed scenarios at training areas and ranges, and Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises (CALFEXs). CALFEXs are LFXs that integrate one or more non-organic combat multipliers into the maneuver unit.

**c. Planning Considerations.** When planning LFXs, leaders must take the following into consideration:

(1) Current level of proficiency on the tasks to be trained. LFXs are the culmination of a deliberate, gated training progression.

(2) Capabilities of the range in order to maximize the use of available resources.

d. Preparation. Leaders must use the 8 Step Training Model, with an emphasis on the training and certification of leaders. In addition, leaders must verify the resourcing for the LFX.

(1) Plan Validation. For all LFXs, leaders two levels up will validate the plan. Validations will include, at a minimum, OPORDs, backbriefs, graphics and fire control measures, execution matrix (delineating dry (if applicable), blank, and live iterations), MEDEVAC plans, surface danger zones and minimum safe distances, the concept of sustainment, rehearsals, the assessment plan, and the retraining plan.

(3) Observer/Controllers (O/Cs). All LFXs require a minimum of one safety or O/C per element (maneuver element, indirect fire element, and support element). Maneuver units conducting demolitions must have a safety or O/C in the rank of Staff Sergeant or above that is certified in the employment of demolition munitions. Each enabler or special weapon team (i.e. snipers, EOD, etc.) operating as separate elements will also have an O/C attached.

(4) Authorities. Battalion Commanders will validate all Squad and Platoon LFX Plans. Brigade Commanders will validate Company LFX Plans. The Deputy Commanding General-Operations will validate Battalion LFX Plans. Commanders who wish to delegate LFX plan validation to another field grade officer of lower rank or command level must gain approval from their Brigade Commander.

(5) Soldier and Crew Qualifications. Leaders will ensure that all Soldiers and crews participating in a LFX have zeroed and qualified on the weapon (including optics and lasers) within the last six months and familiarized on the weapon within the last three months. For crew served weapons, both gunners and assistant gunners must be qualified. Mortar and artillery crews must be current and certified prior to providing indirect fires in support of a maneuver element. All other enablers providing live fire support (i.e. engineers, aviation, EOD, etc.) must be certified on their weapons systems. For night LFX iterations, all Soldiers must be qualified for night fire. These zero and qualification requirements are not waiverable. Medics and Range OICs/RSOs must possess current certifications.

(6) Terrain Walks. Prior to conducting LFXs, leaders will conduct Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) to achieve shared understanding with regards to range layouts and limitations, surface danger zones and minimum safe distances, safety considerations, and the tactical scenario. The commander responsible for validating the LFX plan will determine the audience for the TEWT.

e. Execution.

(1) Units should remain in a tactical environment within the training area unburdened by administrative activities. To the greatest extent possible, units will remain tactical throughout the exercise to include range occupation and setup, assembly area operations, troop leading procedures, and during resupply operations. Range scenarios should be written to realistic standards and conducted under conditions which replicate a tactical environment.

(2) All units will conduct a blank fire exercise (BFX) prior to conducting a day LFX in order to validate the range plan and the unit's proficiency. Prior to conducting a night LFX, units will first successfully conduct a day BFX, a day LFX, and a night BFX to validate the safety and communications plans, and the unit's proficiency.

(3) BFX iterations will be conducted in as similar conditions as possible to the live fire iteration. For example, the BFX targetry array must mirror the LFX targetry array in order to serve as a true LFX rehearsal. Commanders must evaluate the additional residual risk resulting from changes to conditions between the BFX and LFX. A change in range targetry between the BFX and LFX requires a unit to conduct an additional BFX iteration prior to the LFX iteration. The approving authority for changes to conditions and additional risk through the Platoon level is the Brigade Commander; at Company or higher level it is the DCG-O. The CG is the approving authority for changes resulting in a residual risk level of Extremely High.

(4) Battalion Commanders or Command Sergeants Major will be physically present to certify all platoon level or higher live fires. Battalion Commanders may designate a field grade officer to LFXs with the Brigade Commander's approval. Company Commanders or First Sergeants will be physically present to certify all Team and Squad level LFXs. These certifications validate units to progress from blank to live iterations.

(5) Safety. This guidance prescribes the minimum safety standards for conducting LFX training.

i. LFXs should occur within 24 hours of BFX completion. LFX 24 to 48 hours after BFX completion is High Risk and requires Brigade Commander approval. LFX after 48 hours of BFX completion is Extremely High Risk and requires CG approval.

ii. All LFXs will have a designated OIC and RSO who are certified and meet the installation requirements. The RSO will have no other duties other than monitoring adherence to safety procedures during the exercise. If a transfer of RSO duties is required during a LFX, the OIC and incoming RSO will conduct a joint review of the exercise scenario including a walk-through (mandatory) and rehearsal (if required).

iii. All Soldiers, to include firers, safeties, and O/Cs should have at least six hours of sleep prior to conducting a LFX. Sleep plans must be addressed in the Composite Risk Management worksheet (DA Form 7566) and enforced during training execution.

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iv. The approval authority for Extremely High residual risk is the CG, for High is the Brigade Commander, and Moderate is the Battalion Commander.

v. Units will only use scenarios, weapons, and ammunition approved by Range Control in LFXs. Deviations to approved scenarios will be re-submitted to Range Control for approval.

vi. During LFXs, Soldiers must wear approved body armor, unit-issued ballistic helmets, APEL-approved eye protection, and hearing protection.

vii. Use of demolitions is not permitted during electrical storms. The use of mobile radios is prohibited within 50 meters of electrical firing systems. The minimum safe distances from radio/television stations and transmitter antennae is detailed in FM 3-34.214 (Explosives and Demolitions).

(6) We must be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and resources, and employ sound training management and Class V forecasting. Massive detonations or “Spendexes” are not authorized at the end of training to expend unused ammunition or demolitions munitions. Units will turn in excess Class V to the Ammunition Supply Point.

4. Expiration Date. This memorandum remains in effect until superseded or rescinded in writing.

5. Proponent. Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Chief of Training at (808) 655-5351.



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Commanding

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